

## NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—ITALIAN OPERA—POLIUTO.

NILDO'S GARDEN, Broadway—SCHOOLMASTER—THEATRE—CHORUS—MAGIC PHIL.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—OUR MASS—MOTIE SERV—GREEN MONSTER.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—RULING PASSION—TICKETS THREE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street—DOT—BOATMAN AND WATKIN.

LAURA KERN'S THEATRE, 624 Broadway—WORLD AND STAGE.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—VINOCA—SCHOOLMASTER—LIGHTHOUSE FIDEL.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway—AFRICOON AND EVENING—FLYING DUTCHMAN—HARDY CHAMBER.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, 44 Broadway—EMERSON SONGS, DANCES, &c.—BENJAMIN ABRAHAM.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics Hall, 42 Broadway—BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &c.—HIGH, LOW, JACK.

New York, Sunday, September 18, 1859.

## IMPORTANT TO ADVERTISERS.

Owing to the great increase of our advertising business, we are compelled to ask our advertising friends to come to our aid and help us to get our paper to press. This they can accomplish by sending in their advertisements as early as an hour in the day and evening as possible. All advertisements should be handed in before nine o'clock at night. Those handed in after that hour will have to take their chance as regards classification.

## The News.

The equinoctial gale burst upon us on Friday night, and continued with considerable violence throughout yesterday and last night. As usual, trees and awnings suffered no little damage, and the northwest wall of a new building in Duane street, near Broadway, was blown down. A portion of the wall in its descent fell on the roof of an adjoining house, owned by Sarah Loxter and occupied by eight families. The roof and upper stories were demolished, together with the contents of the rooms, and Augustus Vandell, seagr maker, had his leg broke. We have heard of no serious casualty in the city. The tide in the rivers was unusually high, and the cellars of many buildings on the East river side were overflowed, causing considerable damage. Several accidents happened to vessels in the harbor, the particulars of which are given in another column. Owing to the severity of the storm none of the outward bound steamers went to sea yesterday. They will leave as soon as the weather moderates sufficiently to enable them to do so. The mail steamer Arago, bound for Southampton and Havre, is among the vessels detained. We shall, consequently, through the courtesy of Captain Lines and the attention of the purser of the Arago, be enabled to forward files of the HERALD of this morning, containing the very latest news, to our own correspondents and to all the commercial centres of Europe. The Arago takes out 125 passengers and 600 tons in specie.

The laborers at the Bergen tunnel works all day yesterday and throughout last night kept up the blockade of the Erie Railroad at that point, and no trains were permitted to pass. They were visited during the day by several of the magistrates and by Father Vanetta, a Roman Catholic priest, who exhorted the workmen to desist from their unlawful proceedings; but their pacific efforts apparently made no impression upon the laborers. Quite a formidable body of military were under arms yesterday, but the indecent weather deterred them from attempting any operations against the workmen. It is stated, however, that at an early hour this morning the soldiery will disperse the mob and demolish the obstructions placed upon the railroad track.

A meeting of the Democratic General Committee was held at Tammany Hall last night. It was secret, but the following business transpired:—A committee, consisting of one from each ward, was appointed for the purpose of selecting three persons in each election district to act as registers at the election. The committee will meet on Monday next, between 11 A. M. and 3 P. M., to make the selection. A special committee was also appointed to submit the names of those thus selected to the Board of Supervisors, which meets on Monday night.

There was an unsuccessful attempt made yesterday afternoon to obtain a quorum of Councilmen in order to adopt an amended report of a joint special committee appointed to draft an ordinance dividing the city into election districts. The President issued the call early in the morning, but at five o'clock there were only six members present, all the republicans having purposely absented themselves.

On the evening of Thursday last the barn and outbuildings of Mr. Wm. Layton, at Throg's Neck, Westchester county, were set on fire and consumed, together with their valuable contents, consisting of five horses, six carriages, four sleighs, forty-four tons of hay, a quantity of farming utensils, buffalo robes, &c. The total loss is estimated at \$9,000; insured for \$2,000, mostly in New York offices. Mr. Layton has offered a reward of \$500 for the apprehension of the incendiaries.

The annexed table shows the temperature of the atmosphere in this city during the past week, the range of the barometer and thermometer, the variation of wind currents and the state of the weather, at three periods during each day, viz: at 9 A. M., 3 P. M., and 9 o'clock P. M.:

Day of the Week	9 A. M.	3 P. M.	9 P. M.	Barometer	Thermometer	Wind	State of Sky
Sat.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy
Sun.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy
Mon.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy
Tue.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy
Wed.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy
Thur.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy
Fri.	50.0	58.0	60.0	30.0	74.0	N. E.	Cloudy

Saturday—Morning, overcast; afternoon, overcast; night, overcast, with light rain; Sunday—Morning, overcast, with light rain; afternoon, cloudy and sunny; night, 10½ o'clock, thunder and rain; Monday—Clear all day; night, bright moon; Tuesday—Morning, clear; afternoon, cloudy; night 4½ o'clock, heavy shower; Wednesday—Morning, clear; blowing fresh all day; night, clear and cold; Thursday—Morning and afternoon, clear; night, moonlight; Friday—Morning, overcast and cold; afternoon, light rain; night, rain; Saturday—Overcast and heavy rain.

The weekly mortality report of the City Inspector shows that the deaths for the week ending on Saturday last numbered 481, a decrease

of 77 as compared with the mortality of the week previous. Of the deaths last week 81 were men, 53 women, 156 boys and 101 girls. As compared with the corresponding week last year there is a decrease in the number of deaths of 57. Of the whole number of deaths last week 268 were of ten years of age and under, being 51 less than the week previous. The report informs us that there were 146 deaths of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs, 92 of diseases of the brain and nerves, 109 of disease of the lungs and throat, 24 of skin and eruptive diseases, 38 stillborn and premature births, 50 of general fevers, 3 of old age, 2 of diseases of the generative and urinary organs, and 3 of the bones, joints, &c. Twenty-six deaths arose from violent causes. The nativity table shows that 358 were natives of the United States, 82 of Ireland, 19 of Germany, 6 of England, 6 of Scotland, 1 each of Austria, British America, France, Italy, Prussia, Wales and the West Indies, and the balance of different foreign countries.

Yesterday was the 229th anniversary of the settlement of Boston, and the day was to have been celebrated in that city by the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells, a balloon ascension, a grand civic and military procession, a prayer and an oration, and numerous addresses by some of the first men of the old Bay State, together with the inauguration of Hiram Powers' statue of Daniel Webster. Owing to the equinoctial gale, however, the city celebration was postponed, but the statue was duly inaugurated at Music Hall, and Edward Everett delivered a speech on the occasion.

The equinoctial blow, with the heavy fall of rain experienced yesterday, tended to interfere with outdoor business and to check transactions in some branches of commerce. Fairs were expressed that should the recent cold weather and the storm of yesterday have extended over the cotton regions of the South that their effects would prove quite unfavorable. The autumn weather of last year was remarkably fine and late, and no such condition of it as the present was experienced here so early in the season. Not only the yield of cotton, but also that of tobacco, are liable to be affected by early frost and storms, and a good deal of anxiety exists with persons in the trade to learn the effects of the late change of temperature and of the storm of yesterday upon the growing crops, which, owing to a late spring, are said in many sections to be quite backward. The sales of cotton yesterday embraced about 2,000 bales, 1,000 of which consisted of New Orleans strict middling at 12½c. We, however, have no change to notice in our regular quotations, at which the market closed firm.

Owing to the storm the sales of flour were limited, and common grades of State and Western were easier, while extra brands were unchanged. Southern flour was with alteration in prices, while sales were moderate. Corn was inactive and prices without change of moment. Wheat was scarce and held above the views of buyers. Pork was steady, with sales of mess at \$15 12½, and prime at \$10 56 a \$10 62½. The prevailing storm interrupted transactions in sugars. The market was firm, however, while sales were confined to about 150 hds. Cuba muscovado and seven hds. Porto Rico. Coffee was quiet; no sales of moment transpired. Freight was firm, while engagements were light.

The New Dispute with England.—The Mission of General Scott to the Pacific. General Scott arrived in this city from Washington yesterday, and immediately proceeded to West Point, where he intends remaining with his daughter, Mrs. Col. Scott, until Monday, when he will return to this city, and on Tuesday embark on board the steamship North Star for California and Oregon. The General will be accompanied to the Pacific by Colonel L. Thomas, Assistant Adjutant General, and Colonel G. W. Lay, as military private secretary. No doubt a large concourse of citizens will greet the gallant veteran on his departure from our eastern shores to look after affairs on the western slope of our continent.

The occupation of San Juan Islands by the armed forces of the United States under the command of General Harney, the presence in the Straits of a reconnoitering British naval force, and the sudden departure of General Scott to the scene of action, in view of possible difficulties arising out of the occupation, give temporary, possibly they may give permanent importance, to the islands of San Juan.

Let us see how the matter stands. The dispute with regard to the northern boundary of Oregon was settled by adopting the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, and the act of Parliament defining the Territory of New Columbia, or Caledonia, presented the following outlines of that colony. It was to comprise "all such territories within the dominion of her Majesty as were bounded to the south by the frontier of the United States of America, to the east by the watershed between the streams which flow into the Atlantic and the Pacific, to the north by the fifty-fifth parallel of north latitude, and to the west by the Pacific Ocean, and shall include Queen Charlotte's islands, and all other islands adjacent, excepting Vancouver's island." Now, Queen Charlotte's islands are to the north of Vancouver's island, the lower point of the three, Graham, Moresby and Prevost, being at 52 degrees north latitude. Vancouver's island, at its northern extremity, does not reach beyond 51 degrees, and is divided from the main land by the Gulf of Georgia and Queen Charlotte's Sound.

The islands of San Juan are at the southern extremity of Vancouver's island, and in no way adjacent to Queen Charlotte's islands. On the contrary, they lie forty miles westward of Victoria, and are separated from the territory of the United States by only about half that distance. Thus, the new colony excluded in terms of the United States. Politically, the possession of the San Juan Islands would give the preponderance of territory in Vancouver's Straits to the English, and in a military point of view the command of them.

In an English map now before us we perceive they are claimed as British property. This is nothing new. We have seen such maps before. As far as we can fairly judge from the documents before us, our claim is a rightful one, and will be insisted on. General Scott is no doubt fortified with the proper evidence, and will be able to make a correct "deduction of title."

IMPORTS DECLINING AT LAST.—We are glad to see that the imports of foreign goods are at last declining. For many months we have cautioned the dry goods importers against the consequences of the policy they were pursuing; and we have warned them that glutted markets involved sacrificed goods, and that they were most obviously glutting the market. The auction sales which are now taking place, and the disfavor with which certain dry-goods paper begins to be regarded, prove how well-founded our warnings were.

Now, however, it seems, we have turned the corner, and the imports have begun to decline,

The following is a comparative statement of the imports of foreign dry goods and general merchandise at New York for the week and since January 1. For the week:—

	1857.	1858.	1859.
Dry goods.....	\$1,367,030	\$909,328	\$903,130
General merchandise 2,446,309	1,027,901	1,027,901	1,027,901

Total for the week, \$3,813,339 \$1,937,229 \$1,931,031  
Previously reported, 175,875,543 162,697,901 185,087,969

Since Jan. 1.....\$177,096,751 \$105,534,816 \$185,943,681  
The amount of imports is large, \$185,943,681—say eight millions more than 1857. The question whether the country can consume so much more is a very nice one. On the one hand, population and production have increased since 1857, and people, having lived more economically, have the more means now. But, on the other hand, business has been dull, profits have been small, and the desire to buy freely of objects of luxury is less general than it was in 1857; farmers' daughters don't want so many fine dresses, housekeepers don't need so much sugar or such costly tea as they did then. Our readers can decide between the two views. Meanwhile, if the importations fall off from this out, the spring trade will doubtless be lively and profitable.

The Jewish Sabbath and the Christian Sunday.

The Sunday question continues to excite great interest both among the people and the press. It is a question in which the whole community is concerned, and therefore commands universal attention.

The meeting in the Bowery on Tuesday last has put the financial papers in hysterics, and set the hypocritical Pharisaical journals to the publication of platitudes about infidelity, immorality, and the first French Revolution. To all who understand the subject these lucubrations are highly amusing for the ignorance they display, and for the violence of passion, real or affected, which runs through every line, and which is an infallible symptom of the weakness of their arguments.

On another page we publish three interesting articles of a very different character; they are calm, well reasoned and full of facts. The two first, from the *Churchman* of this city, the organ of the Episcopal church, give the Episcopalian view of the question contrasted with the Puritanical; and the last, from the organ of the Archbishop of Cincinnati, presents the Catholic view of it. With these views our own opinions substantially coincide; and it will be seen that what we have written from time to time on the subject is borne out in a remarkable manner by the articles which we extract from our contemporaries.

The positions were established were, that the Jewish Sabbath was abrogated, (and "it is indeed abrogated," says the writer in the *Churchman*); that there is not only no authority in the New Testament for its continuance, but the contrary; that Sunday is an ordinance of the Catholic church, like her other holidays, and her authority is the only warrant we have for observing it; that the festival has been borrowed from that church by the Puritans in common with other Protestants, but that its mode of observance has been changed by the Puritans alone into a dismal, gloomy, Jewish Sabbath, more like a fast than a feast day, and that the Apostles and the early Christians rejected that idea of it. The Protestant Reformers, too, who separated from the Catholic church on other grounds, agreed with it in this. And everywhere else in Christendom but in England, Scotland and the United States, Sunday is held as a joyous festival, like Christmas or Thanksgiving day. This is admitted by the *Churchman* writers themselves. Therefore, says Lyman Coleman, in his *Ancient Christianity Exemplified*, "England, Scotland and America, and they only, of all the nations of Christendom, enjoy a Christian Sabbath."

So that, according to the quadrilateral journal beforesaid in "the elbows of the Mincio," and a wet blanket of Wall street whose piety run mad will be the death of it, the Episcopalians and Catholics of the United States, with many other American Christians, a very large majority of the Episcopalians of England (and they are the majority of the people), the Catholics of that country, the Christians of France, Italy, Germany and all the rest of Christendom, are infidels; and a journal in this country which agrees with them, and nearly the whole Christian world, is accused of infidelity and of an attempt to break down the barriers of morality and social order.

Every reader of the HERALD knows that it has always denounced infidelity as strongly as it has fanaticism in religion; that it has been ever the consistent advocate of law and order and the rights of property, and the sacred obligation of contracts, in opposition alike to those party journals which have demoralized politics and established a reign of rowdiness and terror on the ruins of law and order; to those journals which call property robbery, and those which, advocating the violation of the compact made between the slave States and the free when the constitution was adopted, proclaim "a higher law" than the Bible and the fundamental law of the land, and to enforce it invoke an "irrepressible conflict" between the North and the South which will deluge the country with human blood.

Of this latter class is the journal which charges the HERALD with "boldly arraying itself against all that is sacred in religion and pure in morals, and striking at the very existence of social order and the security of life and property." One of the social crimes urged by this hypocritical journal against the HERALD, is that it is published not only on the other six days of the week, but also on Sunday. Now it is hardly necessary to tell the reader that the SUNDAY HERALD is prepared on Saturday, whereas the Monday issue of the Wall street journal is prepared on Sunday, and its editors, reporters and printers all work on that day, in direct violation of the kind of Sunday observance for which it contends. Could the impudence of hypocrisy and the force of cant further go?

Our quadrilateral contemporary, on the contrary, abandons the religious idea of Sunday laws, and contends that they have only a civil aspect, and are for the temporal good of the people. If that be the case, and that the old Puritan heaven is not working in his stomach, why does he object to Sunday recreations and Sunday amusements, which are certainly for the people's good?—and why call those "infidels" who are seeking to remove the Sunday restrictions on the statute book, one of which gives power to the police to close all places of amusement in the city, while another prohibits travelling beyond "a Sabbath day's journey," and thus prevents the people quitting the field atmosphere of the city and seeking the country to inhale the pure air and enjoy the green

fields, and listen to those sermons preached by brooks, and birds, and trees, and flowers, and mountains, far more eloquent and instructive than the lifeless theology of our drowsy pulpits?

Experience has proved that the Puritanical Sabbath has been most unfavorable to morality, and has driven thousands to infidelity and irreligion, and into every vice and crime. Its ascetic, gloomy character, keeps the people from Christian worship and sends them to other resorts. The churches do not contain quite half room for the population, and yet they are not on an average half full. Thus one-fourth of the people only go to church. The chief cause is the Puritanical Sabbath observance, which remains a legacy of the folly of our ancestors.

The Wonderful Growth of Western Cities—Look at Cincinnati!

There is much that is interesting in the study of the rapid growth of the large cities scattered through the West, each forming a kind of second rate metropolis, and boasting of its metropolitan resources for amusement and dissipation on a small scale. In the Cincinnati *Prices Current* for the present year is a report of the commerce of that city which occupies nineteen columns of one of the daily papers. We learn some curious statistics from this document, showing the progress of Cincinnati since its foundation, in 1788, as a village, with the streets cut through the forest and their names marked on the trees.

It was many years subsequent to this date, however, that Cincinnati began to make its mark as a city, having been incorporated as such in the year 1819, just forty years ago. Since then it has been steadily increasing in commerce and general prosperity.

We learn from the report referred to that for the year 1858-59 "the general increase in commerce is quite remarkable. The increase in the grocery trade will attract attention. The imports of coffee increased 11 per cent, of sugar 30 per cent, and of molasses 60 per cent. We imported about one-sixth of all the sugars made in Louisiana, and one-fifth of all the molasses. One-eighth of all the coffee imported into the United States from Brazil came to this market, and notwithstanding these heavy importations they were not in excess of the demand, which has been large and steady throughout the season."

An abstract of the imports and exports of the city shows that increase is the rule and decrease the exception. The increase in the following articles is quite marked, and tells well for the commercial progress of Cincinnati:—

The exports of furniture have increased eighty-nine per cent; of horses, one hundred and forty per cent; of molasses, sixty-one per cent; of dried fruit, one hundred and sixty per cent. The imports of wool have increased one hundred and fifty-five per cent; of wines, ninety-three per cent; of manufactured tobacco, ninety-six per cent; of potatoes, two hundred and sixty-nine per cent; of barrel pork, seventy-three per cent; of horses, one hundred and thirty-four per cent; of dried fruit, one hundred and ninety per cent; and of boots and shoes, one hundred and four per cent.

Pork, the great staple of Cincinnati, does not show so prosperous a record, for we are told that, "On the basis of a short crop, a sweeping speculative movement prevailed during the fall of 1858, and extended through the packing season. The pork crop of the West was bought at the highest average price ever paid for it in any previous year; and the crop turning out to be ample, the decline was large and the losses extensive and general."

The trade in whiskey, lincseed oil, oats and potatoes, showed the same fate in a measure as that in pork. The increase in all branches of manufacture during the last twenty years has been very considerable, the figures showing that the value of the various departments in 1840, was \$17,780,033; in 1850, \$54,550,134; and in 1860, \$112,254,000; having more than doubled in the last ten years.

As an evidence, not alone of the mercantile but of the intellectual advance of Cincinnati, we refer to the large growth of the book trade:—

The whole number of volumes published in this city the past year we estimate at 3,200,000. The educational works alone, published here, supply nearly all the public schools in the entire West. The cause which gives the school books published in Cincinnati such wide-spread reputation and such a permanent footing, is their superior character. In 1840, the total value of all the books printed in Cincinnati was \$800,000; in 1850 it had reached \$1,250,000; now, from reliable data, we place it at \$2,000,000. There are now fifty-nine establishments engaged in the book trade in this city, of which seventeen are publishing houses, five or six of them on a most extensive scale.

It is a matter of regret that the report is not able to give us any accurate estimate of the dry goods trade. It would be an interesting item at the East. The writer, however, under this head throws out a few suggestions which may be valuable to some of our New York merchants who open long credit accounts with Western houses. He says:—

There is a large number, it is true, who have to go to the East to buy, for the very strong reason that they cannot buy here; and it is a fact, which may seem strange, that there are many merchants doing business in various towns in the Western States who can buy as much dry goods in Eastern cities as they please, and yet whose credit at home is in many instances second-rate, and who get a few absolutely worthless. The ease with which, and upon what a slender basis, a credit of fifty to one hundred thousand dollars can be established in New York has become proverbial on West, and bears a striking contrast with the care and scrutiny used by our merchants, and consequently is, the class of customers who buy here is far better than those who go East."

The progress in trade during the past few years may be inferred from the number of houses engaged in the wholesale and retail departments each year, which were as follows:—

Year.	Wholesale.	Retail.
1850.....	180	180
1855.....	37	108
1859.....	44	194

The growth of the "Queen City of the West" is but a type of the growth of all the other large Western cities. They seem to spring up like mushrooms, and their recuperative faculties after great disasters is amazing. For instance, a financial calamity ruins half the commercial firms and utterly smashes up a number of banks, but in a year or so affairs go on as smoothly as ever, and the city recovers its wonted prosperity; or, as we have seen occurring on Friday last in Chicago, a fire destroys a whole block, by which half a million of dollars is lost; but then, after all, it is only a loss of half a million—the hole is soon filled up, and in a few weeks the demolished block is reared again, looking more handsome and more commodious than before.

Looking at the extraordinary progress of these vast Western cities, people have predicted that New York would lose her supremacy; but this is simply an error, for their prosperity only feeds New York and increases its resources, while the relative positions these cities occupy towards each other, and the vast traffic of country whose products supply the means of prosperity to each, prevent any one of them from acquiring a monopoly of influence.

For our part, we have no objection to see all these great cities increasing. We hope that Cincinnati and Chicago and St. Louis will continue to grow in size and wealth, or even Portland, which is aspiring to take the trade in monster steamships away from us. We hope she will reap a rich harvest from the ad-

vent of the Great Eastern; and she may, provided that the marine monster does not carry off all the products of the State and the back country in her first return voyage, which she might easily do, together with the whole population of Portland. Seriously, we have no small jealousies to indulge in, for we feel quite confident that, however marvellous may be the growth of other cities, East or West, New York, from her location, her mixed population, and the extraordinary enterprise of her people, will maintain to the end the supremacy which has been accorded to her as the great commercial metropolis of the American continent.

Cheap Postage and Postal Reform—How the Post Office May Sustain Itself.

Ex-Senator Cooper has been writing a letter on cheap postage, protection and the iron men's league, which is evidently intended to affect the Pennsylvania election. His remarks in regard to the postal system are worthy of consideration, and we reprint that portion of them elsewhere. The rest of his letter is all leather and prunella, pure electioneering talk, that may suit the Pennsylvanians if they are as ignorant of the truths of political economy as the politicians suppose them to be.

There never has been such an over-worked, under-fed and ill-appreciated beast of burden as the United States Post Office Department. Between the politicians, printers and public generally, the most extraordinary demands are made on it. The first of these load it down with franked documents, franked speeches and franked dry linen; the second place a still heavier load upon it in the shape of a free editor's mail, consisting, on an average, of fifty papers daily for each of the five thousand newspapers, amounting to thousands of tons yearly; and then both join in preaching to the public that the Post Office should be a self-sustaining institution. Ex-Senator Cooper gives up the latter point, and there is where he is wrong.

There is no reason why the Post Office should not sustain itself if the work laid upon it be imposed with any degree of common sense. But to insist that three-fourths of the matter that forms the bulk of the mails shall be carried for nothing because it belongs to politicians and editors, and then to abuse the Postmaster General because he has a deficit in his accounts at the end of each year, is a pure and simple absurdity. Mr. Holt is doing what he can to improve this state of things and to secure the revenue, for which he receives due credit from Mr. Cooper. For this purpose he is now endeavoring to meet the popular desire for cheap postage by every means in his power. He has introduced several economical reforms in the stamped envelope which are productive of good, and aspires to do still more. We are not certain that he can accomplish this until the government makes its own envelope, and sells it to the people at or very near the cost of postage. Under the present system the old stamps are re-used and probably counterfeited, and the stamped envelope costs four cents instead of three, unless parties buy twenty-five envelopes, when they get them at the price the law directs, that is, the postage and the prime cost of the envelope.

But the great reforms that Mr. Holt should endeavor to achieve are these:—First, the abolition of the franking privilege; second, the cutting off of the present incubus of free exchanges between newspapers; third, throwing the carriage of newspapers and printed matter open to the common carriers, at the option of the senders. The first of these reforms would take a great load off the overworked department, and the second would relieve it from a still heavier burthen. Politicians and editors might cry out against it, but the great mass of the people would approve the act. There is no more reason why an editor should receive his papers free than a merchant, or a mechanic, or a farmer. The third step has been partially taken, in the permission granted to contractors to carry newspapers for regular dealers out of the mails. But why a dealer should have any advantage over a subscriber we could never conceive. If the sending of newspapers through the mail was optional with the sender or receiver, and every paper that was carried had to pay postage, the mails would go a great deal lighter, would travel with more certainty, and the revenue would be increased. Will Mr. Holt, in the annual report he is about to prepare on his department, give us some sensible views on this subject and recommend these reforms? If they are adopted the Post Office will soon become a self-sustaining institution.

THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE NEXT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The question of the organization of the next House of Representatives is beginning to attract the attention of the newspapers all through the country. The discussion hinges particularly on the adoption or non-adoption of the plurality rule in the election of Speaker. It seems to us, however, that the matter is not fully understood, and it certainly is not clearly stated, in the country papers. As it is of the highest importance that there should be no mistake about this matter, we desire to present it in the clearest light.

It appears to be conceded on every side that the political parties will stand in the next House of Representatives in the following proportions:—

Republicans.....	113
Democrats.....	92
Anti-Lecompton democrats.....	11
Southern opposition.....	21

Total.....237

In a full vote of the body it would therefore require one hundred and nineteen to constitute a majority. Can either of the two great parties calculate upon having such a majority? Certainly not, except in two contingencies. The one is, that enough votes may be got from one or both of the two factions, the anti-Lecomptonites and the Southern opposition, to give a preponderance to either the democrats or the republicans. The other is, that either through negligence or design the House may not be full on the opening of the session, and the republicans, who are well whipped in, may thus have a clear majority. But unless either of these things occur we are sure to have a most exciting and protracted contest for the Speakership of the next House, just as we had two Congresses since, when Banks was elected Speaker.

Now, as then, the plurality rule will be tendered as the only solution to the difficulty. Under it it will not be necessary for any candidate to have an absolute majority of all the votes cast, but a simple plurality. With three candidates in the field, that would inevitably result now, as it did then, in the triumph of the republicans. There is no ignoring that plain

ble fact. We take it for granted that the democrats proper will, to a man, vote steadily and persistently against such a course, although in 1856-6 the proposition came from a democrat (Smith, of Tennessee), and was supported by several others of the same party. At that time, however, there was but a single faction in the House holding the balance of power. That was the American faction, which, contrary to expectation, obstinately and pertinaciously continued to vote for their own candidate, despite the knowledge that their doing so would give the organization of the House to the republicans. Now there are two factions jointly and severally holding the balance of power between the parties. If the anti-Lecomptonites, for instance, should throw their weight into the republican scale, it would turn the balance in favor of the latter; or if both anti-Lecomptonists and Southern oppositionists should throw their united weight into the democratic scale, the organization of the next House would be effected on a national democratic basis.

The two cliques or factions will, therefore, have devolved upon them an immense responsibility. By obstinately setting up special candidates of their own and pertinaciously voting for them they will prevent the organization of the House and prejudice the public interests. By voting for a plurality rule, or resorting to any other subterfuge to evade direct responsibility, they will as surely effect the election of an abolitionist Speaker as if they had boldly cast their votes for him. But by coming forward in a spirit of patriotism, discarding their petty jealousies and ridiculous quibbles about nothing, and casting their votes for the democratic candidate, they will solve the difficulty in a way that will be promotive of their own and the country's interests. If the democrats will have the good sense to nominate one who is not personally repugnant to the factions this will probably be the course pursued. But we wish to have it impressed on the minds of members, and of the public at large, that voting for the adoption of the plurality rule in the election is equivalent to voting for the republican candidate. It will ensure an abolitionist organization of the House of Representatives, and may, if the Presidential election should be thrown into that body, eventuate in fastening on the country an abolitionist administration. If the Douglas democrats choose thus to sacrifice their own political leader, let them do so. Their act would destroy his last chance before the Charleston Convention. If the Southern oppositionists favor the plurality rule, let them do so, and expose themselves to the execrations of the people of their own section. But let there be no misunderstanding of the inevitable effect of the adoption of this rule.

The State of Europe—Progress of the Napoleonic Ideas and the Fears of the Dynasties.

Affairs in Europe are settling down into a quiet acceptance of the Napoleonic ideas, as modified by Louis Napoleon, though not without a constant effort on the part of the opposing oligarchic and theocratic interests to re-awaken the old opposition to them that was so effectually aroused half a century ago.

The peace of Villafranca and the moderation of the French Emperor took everybody by surprise, and from that time to this the class-supported press of Europe has been prognosticating its early rupture, and preaching the necessity of a general distrust of the policy and